

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A database system comprising:

a partitionable database, wherein

the partitionable database is partitioned into a plurality of virtual databases,
each virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases comprises a respective
plurality of files,

each virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases corresponds to a
respective tenant of the partitionable database, and

for each tenant of the partitionable database, a partitioned virtual database for the
tenant comprises stored files associated with the tenant; and

an access control subsystem, wherein

the access control subsystem is coupled to the virtual databases,

the access control subsystem is configured to provide a first access to a user,

the first access is to files in a first virtual database,

the first virtual database is among the plurality of virtual databases,

the access control subsystem is configured to provide the first access to the user
only when

the user has an access authorization to the first virtual database from a first
tenant, and

the first tenant corresponds to the first virtual database,

the access authorization is based at least in part on whether the user is in
communication with a customer of the first tenant,

the access control subsystem is configured to deny a second access to at least one other virtual database when the user has the access authorization to the first virtual database,

the at least one other virtual database comprises one or more of the virtual databases other than the first virtual database, and

the at least one other virtual database corresponds to at least one tenant other than the first tenant.

40. (Previously presented) The database system of claim 39 wherein the virtual databases are disjoint from one another.

41-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) The database system of claim 39 wherein the access control subsystem is configured to:

provide the access authorization to the user for a particular file in the first virtual database based at least in part on initiation of a database call through an associated computer telephony integration (CTI) system by the customer of the first tenant; and

deny the second access to the user, wherein the second access is denied based at least in part on the initiation of the database call through the associated CTI system by the customer of the first tenant.

45. (Previously presented) The database system of claim 44 wherein an operator of the partitionable database provides a common call center service to customers of tenants of the partitionable database on behalf of the tenants.

46. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

granting an access authorization to a user of a partitionable database, wherein

the partitionable database comprises a plurality of virtual databases,

each virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases comprises a plurality of files,

each virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases has a unique database owner,

the access authorization relates to a first virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases,

the access authorization is based at least in part on whether the user is in communication with a customer of the database owner of the first virtual database;

providing to the user access to a file of the files in the first virtual database while the user has the access authorization; and

denying to the user access to a plurality of excluded files while the user has the access authorization, wherein

the excluded files consist of files in virtual databases other than the first virtual database, and

the excluded files consist of files in virtual databases with database owners other than the database owner of the first virtual database.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the virtual databases are disjoint virtual databases.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the user needs an authorization from an owner of the file to access the file, the method comprising:
- providing the access to the file to the user after the owner of the file grants the authorization to access the file.
50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49 comprising:
- before the providing the access to the file, receiving access authorization to the file for the user from the owner of the file.
51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein
- the receiving the access authorization to the file comprises initiation, by the customer, of a database call to the user through an associated computer telephony integration (CTI) system; and
- the denying access to the plurality of excluded files is based at least in part on the initiation of the database call to the user through the associated CTI system.
52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the partitionable database comprises a multi-tenant database having a plurality of tenants, each tenant of the tenants being an owner of a separate virtual database, at least two of the tenants utilizing a common call center service.
53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein
- the partitionable database stores a plurality of files that are each associated with one of a plurality of unique database owners such that the virtual databases each comprise stored files associated with the corresponding owner of the virtual database.
54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the partitionable database is operated by a database operator on behalf of the owners of the virtual databases as tenants of the partitionable database.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein each of the tenants lease capacity of the partitionable database from the database operator.
56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein
the granting the access authorization to the user is initiated by a telephone call from the customer through a computer telephony integration (CTI) system; and
the denying access to the plurality of excluded files is based at least in part on initiation of the telephone call through the user through the CTI system.
57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the user is a representative of an organization providing a service to the owner of the first virtual database.
58. (Canceled)
59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the access provided to the user is temporary access limited to a duration of the telephone call.
60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the telephone call is made regarding the file, the method comprising:
automatically providing access to the user to a plurality of files in the first virtual database based at least in part on the telephone call.
61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the computer telephony integration (CTI) system is part of a call center service common to the owners of the virtual databases.
62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the providing the access to the file is based at least in part on the user receiving the telephone call via the CTI system.
63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

setting access privileges for a multi-tenant database, wherein

the multi-tenant database comprises a partitionable database,

the partitionable database comprises a plurality of virtual databases,

each of the virtual databases has an owner tenant among tenants of the multi-tenant database,

each of the virtual databases comprises multiple associated data groups,

the setting the access privileges for the multi-tenant database comprises setting access privileges for the data groups in each of the virtual databases; and

for each of multiple requests by a user to data groups in the virtual databases,

determining whether to grant access to the user for a requested data group based at least in part on a relationship of the user to an owner tenant of a virtual database that comprises the requested data group;

when the relationship of the user to the owner tenant is determined to be an employee relationship,

granting access to the user for the requested data group,

when the relationship of the user to the owner tenant is not determined to be an employee relationship,

granting temporary access to the user for the requested data group only during a time when the user is in communication with a customer of the owner tenant, and

denying access to the user for at least one other data group during the time when the user is in communication with the customer of the owner tenant, wherein

the at least one other data group is in another virtual database,
wherein the another virtual database has an owner tenant
other than the owner tenant of the virtual database that
comprises the requested data group, and

the at least one other data group comprises one or more of the data
groups other than the requested data group.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64 wherein each of the data groups is a file stored in the multi-tenant database.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64 wherein:

at least a first subset of the requests for data groups by users are received for users that
are user representatives of a database operator;

each request in the first subset of the requests is based at least in part on a contact to a
user representative,

the contact is initiated by a tenant that owns a virtual database associated with the
requested data group, and

the access authorization for the user representative is determined to have been provided
by the tenant based at least in part on the contact initiated by the tenant.

68-70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64 wherein the temporary access granted to the user is limited to a duration of a live verbal communication between the user and the customer of the owner tenant.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64 wherein the temporary access granted to the user is limited to a duration of a telephone call between the user and the customer of the owner tenant.

73. (Currently amended) The database system of claim 39 wherein;

~~the access authorization is limited to a duration of a live verbal communication between the user and the customer of the first tenant.~~

the access control subsystem is configured to deny access to each virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases, other than the first virtual database, while the user has the access authorization to the first virtual database.

74. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46 wherein;

the access authorization is limited to a duration of a live verbal communication between the user and the customer; and

the denying comprises denying access to each virtual database of the plurality of virtual databases, other than the first virtual database, while the user has the access authorization to the first virtual database.